

ALEXANDRIA-MONROE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Rogers, Shelby Thomas, Pam Blake, Melissa Giles, LeeAnne Fisher, Suzi Remington, and Montie Manning.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Holder

CALL TO ORDER

President Bob Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting had been sent to each member prior to this meeting. Pam Blake requested that a correction be made in regard to the motion that the library remain open over the Veteran's Day holiday. She explained that as she was the individual that made the motion initially she felt that the record should indicate that the motion was intended to read that the library would remain open on Veteran's Day and instead close the day after Thanksgiving, commonly referred to as "Black Friday." Melissa Giles indicated that she would make a note of the correction in the minutes for the October Board meeting. Suzi Remington moved to accept the September minutes with the expectation of seeing the correction made in October. Pam Blake seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item of old business was the 2016 Budget. Manning went before the Madison County Council Public Hearing on September 28th with the proposed increase for the 2016 Budget. Several Board members were in attendance at the hearing in support of Manning. Manning indicated that he felt that the Library's part of the hearing went well, and he felt confident that the budget proposal would be voted on favorably by the council. Manning asked for feedback from the Board members who had attended the Hearing, and a short discussion ensued. It seemed all who had attended agreed with Manning's impression that the budget proposal was received favorably by most of the council. The attendees indicated that Manning seemed very confident and well prepared and was able to field all questions posed to him by the council quite easily. Overall, everyone seemed pleased with the direction of the Budget meeting and feel confident that the vote will be favorable. Good work, Montie!

The second item of old business was introduced by Suzi Remington regarding the disposition of the old Grandfather Clock that has been in her care since the library renovation began in 2014. Suzi indicated that the Board needed to decide if we wanted to move it back to the library and if so, where to place it. This opened an intense discussion as to whether the clock needed to be in the library, and if not where it might be housed. There were several strong opinions for and against bringing the clock back. Suzi gave some history on the clock as to the age of it, original donors, and approximate current value. More discussion ensued, and finally Shelby Thomas moved to bring the clock back with the understanding that Suzi Remington will assume the responsibility of all maintenance, upkeep, and weekly winding of the clock. Suzi Remington seconded, and the motion passed with LeeAnne Fisher abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was Montie Manning's unused vacation time. Manning indicated that he anticipates having approximately 2 weeks of vacation time remaining at the end of the year. He explained that due to various staffing issues as well as conferences and training he has been unable to get his vacation time scheduled in without impacting the normal business operations of the facility. Manning went on to explain that the current policy requires any unused vacation time to either be paid out or forfeited at the end of the calendar year. He asked that the Board consider an exception that would allow him to carry his remaining 2015 vacation hours over to 2016. This would allow him up to 8 weeks of vacation time in 2016 depending on how many hours are remaining at the end of 2015. There was some brief discussion, with Manning assuring the Board members that he did intend to use the time in increments rather than all together. Manning further indicated that he feels that we now have a solid, stable staff, and he does not foresee a need for him to be on site as consistently next year as he has had to be this year. LeeAnne Fisher made a motion to allow Manning to carry over up to 2 weeks of vacation time at the end of 2015 to be added to his 2016 vacation time. Pam Blake seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The second item of new business concerned the need to terminate the current IT vendor and decide on a replacement. Manning explained that he recently brought in a third party IT expert to investigate all of the library's computer systems in order to determine what changes and upgrades might be needed. Manning also indicated that both he and the staff have had some concerns about the current vendor for some time. The third party IT investigator's findings were somewhat alarming. The most notable issue was that our computer backups had not been working since mid-summer. There was some discussion among the Board members regarding potential impact of the IT issues, as well as discussion about how to get a new vendor in place quickly in order to make sure any additional issues that might arise from the current vendor's negligence could be quickly identified and rectified. Manning indicated that he is in contact with an IT company based in Muncie, and that they service libraries in Anderson, Muncie and Yorktown. He intends to have a new vendor in place prior to terminating the current vendor. In the meantime our backups are up again thanks to the third party IT expert. Manning indicated he would have an update on this issue for the Board at the November Board meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Manning explained that the library will begin offering a Lego Club in November. He indicated that this is something that he and the staff have wanted to do for some time, but Legos are expensive. Manning said that the Lebanon Public Library has a Lego Club up and running, and it has become hugely popular with patrons. This inspired our staff to get creative, and they used the reward points from our Amazon credit card to fund the start up. We were able to obtain about \$1000 worth of Legos for \$80! Great idea, folks! This program will be open to all ages, and parents and grandparents encouraged to join the Lego craze!

The other major highlight of the month is Brandi Trent and Story Time. Since Brandi began helping with the children's programming, then doing the programming as well as taking on the children's outreach program, the number of kids showing up for activities and Story Time has steadily increased. On October 8th, 26 children and parents showed up for Story Time with Brandi. This is the largest turnout for Story Time at our library in at least 10 years! If you haven't had a chance yet to offer Brandi a word of appreciation or pat on the back yet, be sure to do so. We need to keep this young lady, we are seeing the proof that kids can still be persuaded to learn the love of reading if they have the right person to introduce them to it. What a treasure that we have that person right here in our own library!

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the report, with little discussion as there were no surprises. All agreed the numbers looked fine.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The claims sheet was distributed for approval. LeeAnne Fisher moved to pay claims 422-475; Melissa Giles seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Manning asked President Bob Rogers to sign the PLAC report.

Melissa Giles gave a brief Park Board report. Everyone would be receiving email regarding a public input meeting with the Park Board to discuss what townfolk would like to see done in our city parks over the next 5 years. Melissa asked the Board to help spread the word about the public meeting to try to increase interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Pam Blake moved to adjourn the meeting; Melissa Giles seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 12, 2015 @ 6:00pm in the Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

**Melissa Giles,
Secretary**